



Brain Dumping is Prohibited

Know how to identify it.
Know the penalties.

Brain dumping is usually defined as an intentional effort to record questions/answers during an exam... or remember questions/answer and document them afterwards.

The list of questions is then used to help future test attempts. The list might be shared with others, such as peers/colleagues planning to test or an influencer who supports others in testing. A group of people may be involved to gather as many questions as they can.

You may even be approached by others to try to remember questions and share what you witnessed on the exam.

Brain dumping is a significant ethical violation. Once exam content is shared, the integrity of that exam form, and the exam itself, may be compromised.

- **A certification board can stop an exam for everyone.**
- **Non-delivery of the exam can impact someone's ability to maintain a license or to practice.** The time and financial impact for the board is huge.
- It hurts the profession and allows people to pass who may not pass otherwise.

A certification board may take any of the following actions for ethical violations. Consequences are not subject to time limits. For example, if evidence of unethical behavior surfaces many years later, PNCB will still take action.

- Stop an in-progress exam.
- Stop the exam for all candidates everywhere.
- Delay release of score results beyond advertised timeframe.
- Invalidate exam scores.
- Suspend or revoke certification.
- Prohibit future exam attempts for the people involved.
- Take legal action against individuals.
- Report lapse of certification to state boards of nursing.

Again, it is important to understand that a certification board can stop an exam for everyone if any content is compromised. When a certification exam is suspended, no one is able to test, including colleagues or classmates. Employment opportunities or benefits such as potential promotions or bonuses may be lost or delayed for candidates everywhere.

You must report the incident. You have choices in reporting:

- Call PNCB at **1-888-641-2767**.
- Email **exam@pncb.org**.
- Use PNCB's **anonymous online tip reporting form**.

WHAT IS BRAIN DUMPING?

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HEAR ABOUT BRAIN DUMPING.